

Fire Station #3

AT A GLANCE**2018 Request Amount:** \$3,400**Priority Ranking:** 1**Project Summary:** \$3.4 million in state funds is requested to pre-design, design and construct a third fire station in the City of Shakopee (City) which will improve fire suppression/rescue and emergency management services response times to residents and visitors.**Project Description**

Currently, the Shakopee Fire Department (SFD) has two fire stations serving a population of 43,151 (including neighboring Jackson and Louisville Townships), as well as an influx of 10 million visitors per year, primarily during the summer months. The City is known as the entertainment hub of Minnesota with an amusement park, a living history park, a renaissance festival and a horse-racing track. Neighboring on the southern border of Shakopee is Mystic Lake and Little Six Casinos which are owned by the SMSC and brings in thousands of visitors to Shakopee annually.

In early 2016, the City began exploring building a third fire station in the southeast region of the City. This and the surrounding area is experiencing continual and significant growth which has exceeded the SFD's emergency response capacity. As part of the City's mutual and auto aid with neighboring Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and the cities of Prior Lake and Savage, this station would enable better response times to them and the eastern population of Shakopee. It would also serve in conjunction with the two current fire stations. The proposed fire station will serve as primary fire protection to over 10,000 residents living within the immediate three-mile radius of the station and \$1.45 billion in real property value. The station will also be the principal medical first response to the area.

The City hired Ethical Leaders in Action (ELA) to conduct an in-depth Fire Station Optimization Study which researched the feasibility, potential benefits and challenges of a third fire station within the City. This high-level study offered action-oriented recommendations backed by data and argument. The ELA recommended the third fire station venture grounded on ELA's Core Values for Public Safety Agencies:

1. *Excellent Public Service* (including call response time, quality of response, and resource availability for current and projected occupancies).
2. *Sound Stewardship of Public Resources* (including the City's commitment to fiscal restraint of behalf of taxpayers).
3. *Fairness* (to all stakeholders, including residents, businesses and employees).

ELA's recommendations were concluded from multiple inputs: interviews with officers and full-time and paid-on-call firefighters, data analysis on call volume and patterns (types and locations of calls), study of demographic and geographic factors and on-site research of geography and traffic management conditions. ELA also researched the national standards and requirements which are

applicable to firefighting and Emergency Management Service (EMS) calls, local metropolitan communities' fire department and fire based EMS policies and standards and the predicted population growth and the past population growth of the area. The emergency call locations and look back volumes were three years, which kept the information relevant and had a high enough volume of data to make the data confidence interval statistically significant.

After completion of the study, the ELA recommended the construction of a new fire station. The proposed station will be built at 1840 Pike Lake Road which is located at the northwest corner of the intersection Eagle Creek Boulevard and County Road 21 in the City. This land is owned by the City.

The cost of the new fire station is estimated to be approximately \$5.5 million with a typical timeline of 18-24 months to allow for completion of space needs assessment, design, bidding, contract award and construction. The City is contributing 10 acres of land for the construction site which as a current value of \$1.3 million, as well as \$2.1 from the City's Capital Improvement Program for a total of \$3.4 million (50% match).

Project Rationale

The improvement of critical emergency response time in an area of current and projected growth is the primary rationale for the new fire station. The City has been experiencing rapid growth in the area, and projections indicate this growth will accelerate. The SFD has surpassed its current fire emergency response capacity and increases in population means increases in the number of emergency calls.

The SFD responds to all structural, vehicle and wilderness fires, vehicle extrications, hazardous materials response, high-angle rescue and open water and ice rescue. The SFD is also a first-responder to all emergency medical calls. The study performed by ELA revealed the service area would greatly benefit in having a fire station which would decrease the average emergency response time in this area from nine minutes or more to four minutes or less. This decrease in response time is critical, especially in relation to fire suppression outcomes and critical medical responses.

Additionally, the Insurance Service Office (ISO) grades a city's fire department on features such as water distribution, equipment, fire protection capability, etc. Based on the evaluation, the ISO gives each fire department a rating between 1 (the best) and 10 (the worst). This rating reflects the overall effectiveness of the department. It is also a big factor in determining fire insurance premiums for property owners. A lower rating generally equates to lower premiums.

One area ISO evaluates is the distribution of fire stations and response-times. ISO's criteria states that a built-upon area of a community should have a first-due engine company with 1.5 road miles of the protected properties and a ladder-service company within 2.5 road miles. This proposed joint fire station would meet the ISO's benchmark and response-time criteria, thus, resulting in a stronger ISO rating.

Other Considerations

Impact on State Operating Subsidies

N/A - Operations and maintenance of the facility will be the responsibility of the City of Shakopee.

Who will own the facility?

City of Shakopee

Who will operate the facility?

Joint operation between the City of Shakopee and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC)

Who will use or occupy the facility?

City of Shakopee Fire and Mdewakanton Public Safety (MPS)

Public Purpose

Fire protection and first responder to all emergency medical calls.

Description of Previous Appropriations

N/A - No previous requests and this project will be complete in one phase.

Project Contact Person

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